



THE ANNUNCIATION

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

First Sunday in Lent

February 18, 2018

Nursery

Our nursery is available for infants through 4-year-olds from 8:45 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. The nursery is located in the Sunday School Building. Nursery Director Meg Zehmer and Nursery Assistant Cassie Vestal will be happy to help you get your child settled into the nursery.

Worship bags

We provide worship bags that contain a coloring page based on the Gospel reading of the day. They are in the front of Little St. Mary's and in the wood bins near the entrances to New St. Mary's.

Rector Search Committee

The Rector Search Committee (Chair Tracey Ragsdale, Brantley Holmes, Andy Howlett, Michelle Lewis, Kim O'Shea, Nancy Reed, Al Rider, Susie Salsitz, Carrie Schaeffer, Armistead Talman, Joan Wilkins, and Russell Wyatt) invites you to share comments, concerns, recommendations and questions. Please email stms.rectorsearch@gmail.com.

Connect with us

We would love to learn more about you! If you are a visitor, please pick up a **welcome card** from one of our ushers or in the back of a pew.

Would you like to write for us? Contact Ashley Cameron at acameron@stmarysgoochland.org

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite One, *Little St. Mary's*

10 a.m. Sunday School and Confirmation Class, *Sunday School Classrooms and Education Building*

10 a.m. Adult Forum: God is Love, *New Parish Hall*

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite Two, *New St. Mary's*

12 p.m. Cookies and Coffee, *Café*

Do you receive email from us?

Visit stmarysgoochland.org/communications to sign up for weekly updates and news from us.

A WEEKLY REFLECTION

"God is Love." – 1 John 4:16

"We believe and testify that God loves each of us boundlessly, just as we are. When we know ourselves to be loved deeply and unconditionally, we can love others with that same love that has been given so generously to us" (SSJE).

Congregations Around Richmond Involved to Assure Shelter—an appropriate acronym for "caritas," or Christian love of humankind, charity. CARITAS's presence this past week has surely impacted the lives of all in our St. Mary's community. Perhaps making a meaningful difference in the lives of these vulnerable families has given us perspective on our challenges and blessings, and with impeccable timing—enriching our faith life at the beginning of this season of Lent.

One of my favorite dinner blessings is "Give us grateful hearts, our Father, for all thy mercies, and make us ever mindful of the needs of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen."—a daily reminder that we have so much to be thankful for, AND there is so much need in and beyond our community. Reverend Bob gave a sermon last year on "Living Eucharistically." Delivered just before Communion, the close ties he drew between the Eucharist and our daily lives resounds each time we say our mealtime blessing. He reminded us of God's plan for each of us—taking hold of our lives with purpose. He asked that we give thanks for our own, unique gifts and talents; that we "break" into the lives of others and share these gifts; and that we give our lives away to "lean in" to life. In so doing, we will grow hopefully and joyfully in our faith.

This week with CARITAS, we "broke" into the lives of 12 parents, 10 children, 5 teens, and a soon-to-be mother of twins. Although 5:30 each evening was a whirlwind of activity, our guests felt our congregation's warm, welcoming hearts thanks to His love that binds us all together.

Thank you for your loving hands that unloaded and reloaded trucks, prepared and served meals, assembled lunches and gift bags, donated supplies, laundered and mended clothes, drove shower shuttles, spent time with guests, held and fed children, played games, washed dishes, blessed meals, stayed overnight, and to Seth Schaeffer, the CARITAS Committee, and those who have led this outreach mission for years. Thanks to all of you for being ever mindful of others' needs, and "leaning in."

Charmaine Trice

WELCOME! Whether it is your first Sunday at St. Mary's, or your 401st, we're glad that you're with us. Please feel free to introduce yourself to a greeter, an usher, or one of our clergy, and **consider filling out a welcome card**. We invite you to join us on future **Sundays** at 9 a.m. for Eucharist or at 11 a.m. for Eucharist or Morning Prayer, on Wednesdays for **Noonday Prayer** at 12 p.m. in beautiful and quaint Little St. Mary's, for a **class** or **Bible study**, or for many of our other **fellowship** and **outreach** offerings. **Little St. Mary's** and **New St. Mary's** are also **open** Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and available to you for prayer and reflection. See the back page to get a sense of what we have going on around St. Mary's.

WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT

There are many invitations throughout Lent for you to **enrich your faith life here at St. Mary's**. These offerings take place throughout the week, but **Wednesday has by far the most opportunities**. Read more below about how you and your family can **take a mid-week break for self-examination, discernment, and collective spiritual renewal**.

Worship Opportunities:

- ❖ **Noonday Prayer every Wednesday throughout the year** is led by clergy and parishioners of St. Mary's at **12 p.m. in Little St. Mary's**.
- ❖ **Evening Prayer every Wednesday in Lent** (February 21 and 28, March 7, 14, and 21) is led by clergy and parishioners of St. Mary's at **5:30 p.m. in Little St. Mary's**. Join us for a brief reflective service before Lenten Supper.
- ❖ **Stations of the Cross is Wednesday, March 28 at 5:30 p.m.** This shadow play, performed by the Children's Choir and the youth of St. Mary's, is a beautiful production and a moving meditation on the crucifixion of Christ. **Rehearsals for Stations of the Cross are on Wednesdays, March 7, 14, and 21.**

Fellowship Opportunity:

- ❖ **Lenten Soup Suppers:** Gather for a simple supper every Wednesday throughout Lent (February 21 and 28, March 7, 14, and 21). **Serving begins at 5:30 p.m.** and is followed by programs for adults, children, and youth at 6:15 p.m. Suggested donation is \$8/person and \$22/family.

Spiritual Formation Opportunities for Children, Youth, and Adults:

- ❖ **Children's Program follows Lenten Supper at 6:15 p.m.** Evenings together consist of fun games based on the Parables that coincide with the speaker series. It's a friendly competition with fun prizes each week!
- ❖ **Following the Lenten Supper, youth** (grades 6-12) are invited for a **time of fun and fellowship** in the Education Building from 6:15 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- ❖ **Lenten Speaker Series begins at 6:15 p.m.** and focuses on some of the old and familiar parables. *The Stories He'd Tell: Exploring the Parables of Jesus* led by **Thom Blair** looks at ideas and implications in each parable that maybe haven't received too much attention. **This first Wednesday, February 21, we'll look at "The man who learned the hard way," Luke 16:19-31.**

SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND ADULT EDUCATION

Lenten resources available for all ages! Please stop by the Café and take a look at the wide variety of **Lenten daily devotionals, reflection journals, and books** for sale for all ages.

The current session of the **men's spiritual practice group continues this Tuesday, February 20 through March 27 at 7:30 a.m. in the Old Parish Hall.** Led by Bob Hetherington, the gathering is an opportunity to deepen faith and is **open to men of all ages.**

Lent is upon us! Throughout this season of self-examination, discernment, and spiritual renewal, **we'll focus in on our relationship with Jesus** and how that relates to our own personal stories and the larger story of St. Mary's community. **Join Andrew this morning at 10 a.m. in the New Parish Hall** as he has an "arm chair conversation" with a St. Mary's parishioner on this first week's theme, "God is Love" and how they've found and experienced love with Jesus throughout their personal faith journey. **"Meeting Jesus" is a six-week journey and reflection** on the Gospel According to John; **pick up a beautiful prayer journal from SSJE in the Café area for \$5.**

FELLOWSHIP

St. Mary's seniors (well, adults of all ages) are invited to Seniors Lunch. Join parishioners of all ages for a delicious lunch and fascinating program **on Tuesday, February 20 at 12 p.m. in the New Parish Hall.** Please note it is the third Tuesday of the month due to CARITAS. This month, **we welcome Dr. Sarah Scarbrough**, who has her PhD in Public Policy and **founded the local non-profit, REAL LIFE Community Center.** Their mission is to "assist individuals who have been impacted by incarceration or those battling addiction to overcome barriers and obstacles faced within the community that hinder their prosperity and their ability to have a thriving future." **Suggested donation is \$5/person.**

Lenten Soup Suppers begin this Wednesday, February 21 at 5:30 p.m. Come break bread and take a midweek break with your St. Mary's family for a simpler supper every Wednesday throughout Lent. Suggested donation is \$8 per person and \$22 per family.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

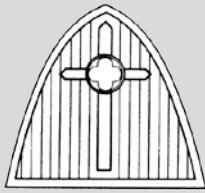
There are a number of **Lenten resources on the table in the Café** for children. **Pick up a Meeting Jesus for Kids journal and a set of Car Talk cards** to guide you and your family through Lent at home.

Save the date for Vacation Bible School: July 9-13, 2018, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. each day. We're currently putting together a great week of fun and learning for 4-year-olds to rising 5th graders! Mark your calendars now. Registration opens around Easter. Want to volunteer? Please contact Amelia McDaniel at amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org.

Save the date for March 16-17 for an all youth retreat to Camp Chanco! All youth (grades 6-12) will head down to the beautiful camp on the James River for fellowship, ropes courses, and zip lines. **You don't want to miss this wonderful weekend!** Please email Matt Rawls at mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org for more information.

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to the **CARITAS Committee (co-chairs Seth Schaeffer and Charmaine Trice, and committee members Carol Lynn Forman, Tracy Harvey, Katie Howlett, Anne McCoy, Margaret Mickel, Caroline Moomaw, Nancy Ritter, Molly Snow, and Pat Zimmerman)** for the time and talent that went into hosting CARITAS guests this past week. **What a blessing these families were to us!** In addition, thank you to everyone at St. Mary's who volunteered to serve dinner, dropped off donations, helped with set-up and tear down, etc. **It was an amazing group effort that involved parishioners from age four to over 70 years old!** St. Mary's cannot wait to continue to offer outreach opportunities throughout the year.



ST. MARY'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

12291 River Road, Richmond, VA 23238

(804) 784-5678

www.stmarysgoochland.org

| Growing in Faith |

| Building Community |

| Giving Joyfully |

CLERGY, STAFF, AND VESTRY

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Cassie Vestal, *Nursery Assistant*

Meg Zehmer, *Nursery Director*

Susan Rawls, *Director of St. Mary's Episcopal School*

Vestry Members:

Tracey Ragsdale, *Senior Warden*

Russell Wyatt, *Junior Warden*

Joe Cheely, *Treasurer*

Patsy Simril, *Register*

Karen Huennekens, Fay Lohr, Anne McCoy,

Kim O'Shea, Doug Pera, Al Rider, Tom Slater,

Seth Schaeffer and Scott Stephens

This Week at St. Mary's

Sunday, February 18, First Sunday in Lent

Holy Eucharist Rite One, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*

Adult Forum: God is Love, 10 a.m., *New Parish Hall*

Sunday School and Confirmation Class, 10 a.m.,

Sunday School Classrooms and Education Building

Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*

Cookies and Coffee, 12 p.m., *Café and New Parish Hall*

Monday, February 19

Pastoral Care Team 3, 10 a.m., *Rector's Study*

Tuesday, February 20

Men's Spiritual Practice, 7:30 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*

Seniors Lunch, 12 p.m., *New Parish Hall*

Staff Meeting, 2 p.m., *Rector's Study*

Wednesday, February 21

St. Peter's Bible Study and Food Distribution, 8:30 a.m.,

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Lectionary Bible Study, 10 a.m., *Library*

Noonday Prayer, 12 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*

Children's Choir, 5 p.m., *Choir Suite*

Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*

Lenten Supper, 5:30 p.m., *New Parish Hall*

Lenten Speaker Series, 6:15 p.m., *New Parish Hall*

Thursday, February 15

Adult Choir, 7:30 p.m., *Choir Suite*

Saturday, February 10

A.A., 10 a.m., *Education Building Classroom*

Sunday, February 25, Second Sunday in Lent

Holy Eucharist Rite One, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*

Adult Forum: The Word Became Flesh, 10 a.m., *New Parish Hall*

Sunday School and Confirmation Class, 10 a.m.,

Sunday School Classrooms and Education Building

Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*

Cookies and Coffee, 12 p.m., *Café and New Parish Hall*

Coming Up

Wednesday, February 28

Lectionary Bible Study, 10 a.m., *Library*

Noonday Prayer, 12 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*

Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*

Lenten Supper, 5:30 p.m., *New Parish Hall*

Lenten Speaker Series, 6:15 p.m., *New Parish Hall*

Sunday, March 4, Third Sunday in Lent

Choral Evensong, 5 p.m., *New St. Mary's*